

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF PETTY OFFICER JOHN M. COOPER III

HON. TRAVIS W. CHILDERS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mr. CHILDERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Petty Officer John M. Cooper III, United States Navy. Petty Officer Cooper III is retiring from the Navy after 20 years of service to our nation.

In 1990, Petty Officer Cooper III, enlisted in the United States Navy. In his career as Hull Technician, Petty Officer Cooper III was responsible for helping to keep the fleet operational and ensuring that the navy vessels are in good condition.

During his time in the United States Navy, Petty Officer Cooper III traveled the world and received many medals and ribbons for his service. He was certified as a Quality Assurance Officer, Safety Supervisor, and Gas Free Engineer.

Petty Officer Cooper III has dedicated years of service to this nation, and for that, we thank him. I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Petty Officer John M. Cooper III on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Navy.

AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA ACT

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I object to the anti-choice amendment brought forward by Reps. BART STUPAK and JOSEPH PITTS. The Stupak-Pitts amendment goes beyond the scope of current law and effectively prohibits private insurers in the health insurance Exchange from offering insurance plans with abortion provisions. This amendment prohibits the use of federal funds from covering any part of the costs of any health care plan that includes coverage of abortion coverage, even if federal dollars do not go towards an abortion procedure. This amendment truly undermines the spirit of health care reform by rationing women's care and taking away current benefits plans that include abortion coverage.

This amendment strips women's legal right to abortion procedures and turns back the clock on decades of legal precedent and legislation.

This is a procedure that some women must consider in the interest of their health. This is a choice that no one, not a Member of Congress, or government official should make for a woman. This is a woman's choice that must be preserved. A woman's reproductive choice has been recognized by the Supreme Court of this country, and honored by the citizens and lawmakers of this country.

Please oppose this amendment and protect women's health.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF SISTER DONNA L. HAWK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Sister Donna L. Hawk of Cleveland, Ohio, as she is named the West Side Catholic Center's Walk in Faith recipient of 2009.

Throughout her life, Sister Donna Hawk has turned her faith into action, uplifting the lives of those living on the streets. Sister Donna has become a nationally-known leader by creating and operating transitional housing for the homeless, especially for women and their children fleeing domestic violence. While working for many years as a volunteer at the West Side Catholic Shelter, Sister Donna developed a special compassion for women, many of whom had young children, who sought refuge from abusive situations.

In 1986, without funding, Sister Donna teamed with Sister Loretta Schulte to rally community leaders and developers in order to transform a motel on Cleveland's west side into Transitional Housing, Inc.—a place of shelter and source of counseling and resources for women and children in need. For more than twenty years, Transitional Housing, Inc. has served as a model for similar programs throughout the nation and across the world.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring and recognizing of Sister Donna L. Hawk, whose faith in action, unwavering belief in the possibility of transformation, and staunch advocacy has given strength and hope to countless women and children.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mr. SCHOCK. Madam Speaker, in accordance with the Republican adopted standards on earmarks, I submit the below detailed explanation of the Biotechnology Research and Development Corporation in Peoria, Illinois.

Bill Number: H.R. 2997—FY 2010 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

Provisions/Account: Agriculture Research Service—Salaries and Expenses.

Name and Address of Requesting Entity: The entity to receive funding for this project is the Biotechnology Research and Development Corporation at 1815 North University Street, Peoria, Illinois 61604.

Description of Request: This funding will be used to find new market opportunities for commodity agricultural products, improve efficiency of production, develop new methods of disease control for both plant and animal commodities, and facilitate communication between the government and academic scientists and American Industry.

LISTEN TO THE DISSIDENTS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to share with our colleagues an editorial from the November 8 Washington Post by columnist Jim Hoagland. Hoagland's piece is aptly titled "Listen to the Dissidents." Hoagland points out the limits of "engagement" as pursued by the Obama administration—particularly engagement that relegates human rights issues to the back-burner.

It is tragic that, as Hoagland points out, "the dissident—a hero and catalyst for enormous change in the Soviet empire, China, the Philippines and elsewhere only two decades ago—has become a largely neglected and absent figure in this administration's diplomacy."

I join the growing chorus of voices in urging the President to listen to the dissidents.

[From the Washington Post, Nov. 8, 2009.]

LISTEN TO THE DISSIDENTS

(By Jim Hoagland)

Barack Obama's extended hand was whacked across the knuckles by the leaders of Iran, Syria and assorted other thuggeries last week. But the Obama administration did manage a good demonstration in Burma of how its brand of engagement can and should work.

Kurt Campbell, the State Department's top Asia official, traveled to the isolated military dictatorship to talk with its corrupt junta. But Campbell also insisted on having a highly visible meeting with the leader of the country's democracy movement, Aung San Suu Kyi, and then publicly called on her persecutors to grant her party more freedoms.

This is the balance that has been missing in Obama's outreach to other authoritarian states. Demonstrators on the streets of Tehran underlined the president's missing link Wednesday by chanting: "Obama, Obama—either you're with them or you're with us," as Iranian police beat them, according to news accounts. Obama and his advisers need to take the dissidents' message to heart.

The dissident—a hero and catalyst for enormous change in the Soviet empire, China, the Philippines and elsewhere only two decades ago—has become a largely neglected and absent figure in this administration's diplomacy. Media coverage of political protest globally also seems to have waned since the end of the Cold War.

True, Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton have made symbolic gestures toward the politically oppressed on their

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

travels and in pro forma statements. But, as the president's coming visit to China will again show, dissident political movements have not been incorporated into his strategy for changing the world. The president believes so strongly in his powers of persuasion that the transformative work once done by Lech Walesa, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Corazon Aquino, Wei Jingsheng and others now falls largely on his shoulders. Campbell's meeting with Suu Kyi provided a useful corrective, for one country at least, to this tendency.

George W. Bush proved that it is possible to overdo support for dissident movements and the vilification of their tormentors, just as his father demonstrated that it can be underdone (see Bush 41's effort to keep the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia from disintegrating). The Bush 43 administration, in fact, bears some of the responsibility for the eclipse of the dissident in the public mind. The focus of many journalists' and political activists has recently been on U.S. human rights abuses rather than those of much more brutal foreign regimes.

So Obama's decision to reach out and encourage hostile regimes to relax their grip internally made initial tactical sense, especially in Iran. The administration deserves some credit for the current political fluidity there. Removing the United States as a heavy-handed, threatening enemy helped expose President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's manifest failures of governance and helped meaningful dissent to surface and spread.

But the extended-hand tactic may have run its course there. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the country's highest authority, used inflammatory language to denounce Obama and the U.S.-originated proposal on uranium reprocessing given to Iran on Oct. 1 in Geneva. Even though U.S. officials claimed at the time that Iran had "accepted" the proposal—which effectively drops the long-standing U.S. demand for Iran to suspend its enrichment of uranium as a condition for negotiations—Khamenei said that its terms were unacceptable.

Meanwhile, protesters were voicing concern that Obama's single-minded pursuit of a nuclear deal is conveying legitimacy to Khamenei and Ahmadinejad—at the dissidents' expense. They did not seem to have been impressed by the general words of support contained in a message issued by Obama to mark not this political uprising but the 30th anniversary of the seizure of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, an event celebrated in Iran but not here.

Syria also served notice that its priorities have not been influenced by Team Obama's repeated blandishments for better relations. Israel intercepted a major clandestine Iranian arms shipment destined for Syria and the Hezbollah guerrillas it supports in Lebanon. And As-Safir, a Syrian-controlled newspaper in Beirut, launched a vitriolic, sexist attack on Michele Sison, the able U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, that concluded by calling on its readers to "silence this chat-box"—an ominous statement in a country where U.S. and European diplomats have been murdered.

Friendly, principled engagement is a useful tool—up to a point. It is probably worth exploring in Burma with new steps. But there also has to be a workable Plan B—something Obama will now have to demonstrate that he has developed for Iran and Syria.

HONORING FERNANDO C.
MACHADO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a man whose life and pursuits exemplify the spirit of fortitude, entrepreneurship, virtues of family and citizenship demonstrated by so many of those who strive to provide food and fiber to the citizens of this great nation. Many things have contributed to California's bountiful agriculture industry and economic well-being, but one significant underlying factor in California's agricultural success has been the presence of agricultural leaders such as Fernando C. Machado. A veteran farmer and former dairyman, Mr. Fred Machado is being honored on November 18, 2009 in Fresno, California as the 2009 Agriculturist of the Year by the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce.

Fred Machado, born an American citizen on the Azores Island of Portugal in 1932, moved back to the United States with his family in 1949. After a four-year tour in the United States Navy during the Korean War, Mr. Machado returned to California in 1955 where he began to farm twenty-six acres of rented land near Easton. To make ends meet, he also worked on dairies, at cotton gins and at various other odd jobs. Today, Fred continues to farm, but on his own 800 acres of almonds, grapes, orchards and feed crops.

Fred and his family have always been involved in the San Joaquin Valley agricultural industry in a variety of capacities over the years. He was quoted recently as saying, "I will always be in farming as long as I can, I cannot get away from the dirt." Machado continued, "It's been great for us. We've made a good living, we've raised our family there . . . We're just real happy to be involved in agriculture."

A past president of the Fresno County Farm Bureau, Mr. Machado has also served on the board of directors of the National Milk Producers Federation, Challenge Dairy and Danish Creamery and several other agriculture committees in the Valley. He has extensive community service in organizations such as Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #84, Knights of Columbus #153 of Easton, Fraternal Order of Eagles Fresno Aerie #39, and the Portuguese Fraternal Organizations—I.D.E.S.S., S.E.S., and U.P.E.C.

Fred Machado has also been the recipient of a number of other awards, among which are Fresno County Farm Bureau's Distinguished Service Award, the California Farm Bureau's Distinguished Service Award, and California State University Fresno, Ag One Community Salute Award. The award Mr. Machado is receiving this November 18th is indeed a high honor in Fresno County. Fred is truly deserving of this award. It is especially fitting to congratulate and salute Mr. Fred Machado for his outstanding service to agriculture, the people of California and our nation.

LEONID NEVZLIN

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to my colleagues' attention the achievements of Leonid Nevzlin, a person who deserves recognition as a champion of the humanities in Russia, a civic leader in his adopted homeland Israel, and a philanthropist across three continents. I am proud to pay tribute to this extraordinary man, who has dedicated his life and his resources to supporting important social efforts and has provided leadership to the Jewish Diaspora around the world. His generous support for numerous organizations has made him an example to his countrymen for taking a social stand and making giving and sharing a way of life.

Mr. Nevzlin has been instrumental in introducing democratic reforms and social responsibility to the former Soviet Union. He was directly involved in a number of projects to support Russian President Boris Yeltsin in an effort to boost civil society and democratic freedoms during the Russian Federation's transition from communism. In June 2003, after helping to establish several foundations and pro-democracy organizations, Mr. Nevzlin was elected President of the Russian National Humanities University. This university, which was created to foster the country's new liberal-minded elite, has received an unprecedented \$10 million in financial support. In the autumn of 2003, Mr. Nevzlin was forced to leave Russia, at which time he became a citizen of Israel and began to expand his efforts on behalf of the Jewish people.

Mr. Nevzlin's private manner belies the fact that he is one of the most important international Jewish leaders today. His continuous efforts to give a contemporary meaning to the concept of "Jewish peoplehood"—primarily through his deep involvement in the Museum of Jewish Diaspora in Tel Aviv—has re-energized Jewish communities and organizations around the world. Mr. Nevzlin is also one of the largest and earliest supporters of the Tom Lantos Foundation for Human Rights, established to honor our distinguished colleague's memory and to carry on his work for human rights around the world. In recognition of his activism and leadership, Mr. Nevzlin was recently named this year's chairperson of the General Assembly of the United Jewish Communities, the largest gathering of the Jewish community, which will take place in Washington, DC in the fall.

It is for all these reasons, Madam Speaker, that I believe it is fitting that we recognize Leonid Nevzlin's commitment to advancing the cause of civil society and human rights and his leadership and generous support of organizations dedicated to serving the needs of others.